

June 23, 2011

South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

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VETERANS BENEFITS SCHOOL

This year's annual benefits school for County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers will be held at the Ramkota Hotel in Pierre on August 29-31, 2011.

As in the past, the school will begin at 1:00 pm on Monday, August 29, and will conclude by noon on Wednesday, August 31.

In preparation of this program, VSOs were surveyed by the claims office to determine some of the issues that need to be addressed.

A complete agenda will be made available by the latter part of July. Also at that time, information will be provided regarding hotel reservations.

Watch your email for more details!



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SURINAME DIGNITARIES VISIT SOUTH DAKOTA

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, adjutant general of the South Dakota National Guard and Mr. Lamure Latour, Suriname Minister of Defense, reviewed the South Dakota-Suriname State Partnership Program (SPP) .

The South Dakota National Guard hosted dignitaries from the Republic of Suriname for a week in June. Dignitaries visited the Air Guard and Army Guard facilities, the State Capitol, the SDNG Museum and communities impacted by the floods. They were shown various military training associated with the annual Golden Coyote training exercise, as well as ongoing missions by South Dakota's Soldiers and Airmen conducting flood relief related missions in South Dakota. The South Dakota-Suriname State Partnership Program was formally established in August 2006 to develop mutually beneficial partnerships between the two entities.

Governor Dennis Daugaard took time out of his busy schedule to meet the leadership from Suriname and to learn first-hand how the partnership benefits all partners involved. The SPP continues to build economic, educational, civic and community partnerships mutually beneficial to both countries.

Bob Kusser (second from left), of the South Dakota National Guard Museum, provided the Suriname dignitaries with a tour of the Museum and a brief history of the role of South Dakota's National Guard over the years.

This visit from top officials in Suriname was a great opportunity to foster the relationships and continue to develop future military, economic and non-governmental engagements in a variety of areas.



BRITISH SOLDIER WORKS WITH SDNG DURING FLOOD

With the help of a foreign exchange program, the South Dakota National Guard received assistance from British troops during the Missouri River flooding operations in South Dakota.

Among those troops was Cpl. Arseny Barkovskiy, a British Soldier with the Allied Rapid Corps' Military Police Battalion, who traveled from his home in London Friday, June 10, to work with the South Dakota Army National Guard's 235th Military Police Company for two weeks at Dakota Dunes as part of the U.S. Army's Personnel Exchange Program.

The purpose of this program is for Soldiers of participating nations to share military skills, experience different cultures and form friendships with the people they work with.

"I was integrated into the unit and did everything my U.S. counterparts did," said Barkovskiy, who performed security and checkpoint operations with the 235th Soldiers, as well as military driver's training. Upon arrival to the flood operations in Dakota Dunes, Barkovskiy said he was impressed by the amount of assets involved in the operation. "It's been fascinating to see the resources you have at your disposal, especially at the state level with federal backing," he said. Reserve forces in the U.K. are not used for civil emergencies, such as flooding, but are designed to supplement the regular British forces overseas, Barkovskiy explained.



Spc. Caleb Fousek, a military policeman with the 235th from Rapid City, said his English counterpart was a great help to their operations. "He has a very acute sense of what to look for," said Fousek. "He'll spot little details others might miss."

After working with South Dakota's Soldiers, he said there are more similarities than differences between the National Guard and the British Reserves, with only subtle cultural variations distinguishing each force.

In the end, what impressed him the most was the kindness of the unit he worked with, Barkovskiy said. "I've been blown away by the hospitality of [the 235th], the U.S. Army and South Dakota," said Barkovskiy. "I can't say enough good things about them."

Objectives of the Personnel Exchange Program are to —

- a. Establish, on a mutually agreeable basis, relationships between US Army personnel and the personnel of armies of other nations by which experience, professional knowledge, and doctrine of the respective armies are shared to the maximum extent permissible within existing policies.
- b. Foster in the personnel exchanged, and in their coworkers a mutual appreciation and understanding of the policies and doctrines of their respective armies through the sharing of professional knowledge and experience.
- c. Encourage the mutual confidence, understanding, and respect necessary to enable harmonious relationships to exist between the US Army/Government and the armies/governments of other nations.
- d. Provide interesting and challenging duty with other armies for US Army officers and career-enlisted personnel.

JISCC PLAYS MAJOR ROLE IN FLOOD COMMUNICATIONS

An incident as large, complex and challenging as the southeast South Dakota Flood incident along the Missouri River, is a demanding job. Communications experts are required to provide the vital flow of information across vast areas, linking multiple agencies in such historic flooding efforts. That is where the

Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) equipment comes into play. The JISCC is a key communications tool that the South Dakota National Guard has deployed to ensure emergency responders and Guard members can effectively communicate with one another.

The JISCC is a mobile unit that fits nicely into an 18-foot trailer and its purpose is to help increase mission efficiency by allowing joint use of voice, data, video and radio assets among local, state and federal agencies involved in the flooding efforts. The Guard is providing interoperability between Game Fish and Parks, FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, Customs and Border Patrol, Highway Patrol,

Type II and II incident management teams, Sioux Falls Swift Water Rescue, DOT, local sheriffs and many others.

When large groups of peo-



ple are working for a common goal, such as fighting a historic flood, communications is usually one of the biggest challenges to face. That is why the SDNG has deployed this key communications asset. The JISCC provides equipment to ensure that communication between agencies is maintained at all times.

The Soldiers assigned to the JISCC have the ability to pull up to any situation or location, whether in an established area or in the middle of nowhere, and setup this mobile communications asset complete with a durable satellite dish, a 20 foot by 20 foot tent, generators, lights and a myriad of high-tech equipment.

The Guard has employed nearly 250 pieces of communications equipment in support of the flooding efforts, including 211 radios, many cell phones, wi-fi and laptops.

The JISCC, and other mobile units like it, are an excellent way for the Guard to keep constant communication in an incident, especially if more than one state is affected. This system provides flexibility and redundancy to those remote areas or places where backup may be necessary.

All fifty states have at least one JISCC unit, and this allows them to talk to any one of those states.



CABELA'S HOMETOWN HEROES CELEBRATION

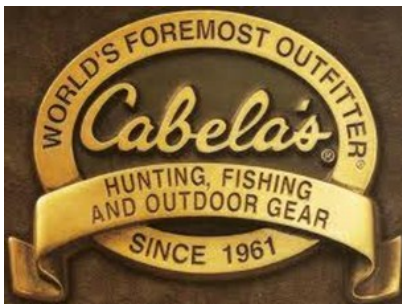
Cabela's will be hosting a Hometown Heroes event on June 29, 30 and July 1. As their way of saying "Thank You", they are offering their Outfitter Discount to military personnel, veterans, law enforcement, firefighters, EMT/EMS, and SD GFP or DNR employees.

You must bring some proof of ID to show which organization you're from in order to receive the discount at the cash registers.

The Outfitter Discount is anywhere from 5-25% off in-stock merchandise (excluding gift cards/certificates and licenses). This offer cannot be used on prior purchases or with any other offer.

If you have any questions, you may reply to this email or call the store at 605-996-0337.

The Hometown Heroes Celebration will be taking place at all U.S. Cabela's retail locations, but they hope to see you in Mitchell.



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This offer is good at Cabela's U.S. stores only. Not available on catalog or internet orders. This offer will be valid on in-stock store merchandise only. Not valid on Gift Certificates, Gift Cards or licenses. Offer cannot be used on prior purchases. Offer cannot be used in combination with any other promotion or previous offers. Other restrictions apply, see store for details. Please present government ID to cashier. Offer valid June 29 - July 1, 2011.

A NATIONAL CAPITOL JULY FOURTH CELEBRATION

PBS will carry America's favorite Independence Day celebration live from the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol on Monday, July 4, at 8:00 pm. The show will be capped off with a rousing rendition of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" complete with live cannon fire provided by the United States Army Presidential Salute Battery, an audience favorite and now an A Capitol Fourth tradition. Also participating in the event will be The Choral Arts Society of Washington, along with The U.S. Army Herald Trumpets, The U.S. Army Ceremonial Band, the U.S. Air Force Ceremonial Band, members of the armed forces carrying the state and territorial flags and the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard provided by the Military District of Washington, D.C.



2011 BOSTON POP FOURTH OF JULY

On Monday evening, July 4, CBS television network will provide coverage of the Boston Pops Concert and Fireworks Spectacular. Check your television guide for specific time schedule in your area. The flyover, the orchestra, the cannons and the fireworks display makes this one patriotic event to treasure.



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